

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-0408**

**Glencoe Post Office**

**1500 Glencoe Road**

**Spark-Glencoe, Baltimore County**

**1870 ca.**

**Private**

The Glencoe Post Office was initially built circa 1870 to serve as a boathouse for Joseph W. Mowell's summer resort called Glencoe, which lent its name to the community that formed around the intersection of Glencoe Road, York Road, and the Northern Central Railroad. Although the 1850 county atlas indicates that Glencoe Road did not exist at that early date, by 1877, the road was improved not only with dwellings, but also with a steam saw mill and a hotel that later became a summer resort. Within twenty-five years, the population and industry of Glencoe Station rivaled those of Phoenix Station. Prior to the use of the boathouse as a post office, Joseph W. Mowell was appointed postmaster. George M. Mowell was postmaster from 1907 until 1931. It was during his appointment that the boathouse was converted into a post office. George Mowell was postmaster for ten years beginning in 1931 until M. Elizabeth Gorsuch, who served until 1954, replaced him. In 1967, the Glencoe Post Office was officially closed. Between 1973 and 1974, the building was moved west from its historic location east of the Northern Central Railroad to the nearby campus of Oldfields School, located along Glencoe Road.

The Glencoe Post Office is a one-story, one-bay-square wood frame building is clad in German siding and features a concave hipped roof clad in flush sheet metal. A small, rectangular cupola with louvered wood ventilators and a sheet metal-clad hipped roof rises from the center of the roof. A scalloped wood bargeboard spans the perimeter of the building. An offset sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door and one 6/6 window pierce the façade, or northwest elevation. The building now sits on a concrete block foundation and features a reconstructed stretcher bond brick exterior chimney on the southwest elevation.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0408

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic      Glencoe Post Office

other

### 2. Location

street and number    1500 Glencoe Road      not for publication

city, town      Sparks-Glencoe      vicinity

county      Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name      Oldfields School, Inc.

street and number    1500 Glencoe Road      telephone      Not Available

city, town      Sparks-Glencoe      state      MD      zip code      21152-0697

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.    Baltimore County Courthouse      liber      Not Available      folio      Not Available

city, town      Towson      tax map      28      tax parcel      144      tax ID number      1015037105

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing      Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0408

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Glencoe Post Office was constructed circa 1870. The one-story, one-bay-square wood frame building is clad in German siding and features a concave hipped roof clad in flush sheet metal. A small, rectangular cupola with louvered wood ventilators and a sheet metal-clad hipped roof rises from the center of the roof. A scalloped wood bargeboard spans the perimeter of the building. An offset sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door and one 6/6 window pierce the façade, or northwest elevation. Between 1973 and 1974, the structure was dismantled and moved from its historic location to its current site. The building now sits on a concrete block foundation and features a reconstructed stretcher bond brick exterior chimney on the southwest elevation.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0408

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** 1870 ca.-1974

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1870 ca., 1974

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Glencoe Post Office was initially built circa 1870 to serve as a boathouse for Joseph W. Mowell's summer resort called Glencoe, which lent its name to the community that formed around the intersection of Glencoe Road, York Road, and the Northern Central Railroad. Although the 1850 county atlas indicates that Glencoe Road did not exist at that early date, by 1877, the road was improved not only with dwellings, but also with a steam saw mill and a hotel that later became a summer resort.<sup>1</sup> Within twenty-five years, the population and industry of Glencoe Station rivaled those of Phoenix Station. Prior to the use of the boathouse as a post office, Joseph W. Mowell was appointed postmaster. Eleven years later, in 1882, he was replaced by George W. Mowell.<sup>2</sup>

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Henry D. Perky, owner of the Oread Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, sought to supplement the education of women provided by this school for domestic science by establishing a school for men focused on the agricultural sciences. Intending to locate his new school in the village of Glencoe, Perky purchased a nearby farm in 1903 with hopes of opening the Oread School of Agriculture, Manufacturing and Commerce the following year. He also planned to move the girls' school to Glencoe. During this period, Perky began increasing the school's holdings.<sup>3</sup> In order to house the school's students, Henry Perky purchased options on roughly 3,000 acres of land in and around Glencoe. Many of these tracts were improved with dwellings and outbuildings. Perky planned to house the female students in Glencoe, Joseph Mowell's former summer hotel. The innovative educator converted the remaining dwellings to dormitories for the male students. Perky's plans of opening a large agricultural and domestic science school abruptly ended in 1906, when Henry Perky suddenly died. In order to rectify the debt incurred between 1903 and 1906, the vast holdings owned by Perky's school were sold at auction the year following his death.

George M. Mowell was postmaster from 1907 until 1931. It was during his appointment that the boathouse was converted into a post office.<sup>4</sup> George Mowell was postmaster for ten years beginning in 1931 until M. Elizabeth Gorsuch, who served until 1954, replaced him. In that years, T. Clay Groton was appointed, serving for the

<sup>1</sup> Jennie E. Jessop, *The Origin of Names in Baltimore County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, nd), p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Records of Oldfields School.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew C. Clemens, pp. 7-8.

<sup>4</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0408

Name Glencoe Post Office, 1500 Glencoe Road, Sparks-Glencoe, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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following seven years. Groton was postmaster for only four years before being replaced by Mary G. Isennock. Two years later, in 1967, the Glencoe Post Office was officially closed.<sup>5</sup> Between 1973 and 1974, the building was moved west from its historic location east of the Northern Central Railroad to the nearby campus of Oldfields School, located along Glencoe Road.

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<sup>5</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory; see also Records of Oldfields School.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0408

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Records of Oldfields School.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre

Acreage of historical setting 224 Acres

Quadrangle name Phoenix

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Prior to its move in the mid-1970s, the Glencoe Post Office was associated with the land located at 1316 Glencoe Road. Since 1974, the building has been associated with the 188.533 acres of land known as tax parcel 144 of map 28 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 17, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



USGS Quad: PHOENIX  
Scale: 1:24,000



5663 11 SW  
(HEREFORD)

BA-0408  
1500 GLENLOE ROAD  
SPARKS - GLENLOE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

32'30"

BA-0945  
2642 STOCKTON ROAD  
PHOENIX  
BALTIMORE COUNTY







BA-0408

1500 GLENLOE ROAD

SPARKS GLENLOE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

W CORNER

1 of 2



BA-0408

1500 GLENLOE ROAD

SPARKS GLENLOE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SW ELEVATION

2 of 2

- 407 **GLENCOE (MOWELL) HOUSE** - Before 1877 - (North side of) 1314 Glencoe Road, immediately east of NCRR line. Elaborate rambling white frame Victorian house in Italianate style, home of J. W. Mowell (pronounced MAU-ell) who developed Love's Switch into resort town of Glencoe. Shown in 1877 atlas. Detailed illustration of house and surviving barns in Scharf's 1881 county history, p. 916. Hotel is long extinct, as is Mowell's steam sawmill. Accepted on NR, 1983.
- 408 **GLENCOE POST OFFICE** - Before 1881 - (North side of) 1316 Glencoe Road immediately East of NCRR line. Former boat house of artificial lake that served Glencoe Hotel. Frame building, 10 x 13', with scalloped roof and louvered ventilator cupola. Shown in Scharf's 1881 history (p. 916). Served as post office from 1927 until shutdown in 1967. Moved intact to Oldfields School campus in autumn of 1980.
- 410 **FRUITFUL VALLEY (PARTRIDGE HOUSE)** - 1825 - (SE corner of) 2000 Monkton Road (at Shepperd Roads). Large brick house, 23 x 50' with a wing 20.5 x 25', in Federal style, built by John Merryman of Benjamin, who owned the Monkton-Manor Mill Seat just to the south. Passed to John Johnson Merryman in 1849 and remained in that family until 1889. Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Everett G. Partridge.
- 413 **LOCUST GROVE** - 1700s estimated - South side of Stockton Road, 0.2 mile west of Cooper Road. Very old but modest tenant house of frame and clapboard with gambrel roof; formerly used by Fox family, and currently farmed by Louis Ensor. Owner: John M. Fox.
- 433 **T. HOWARD PRICE HOUSE** - 18\_\_ - West side of Stockton Road, 1.1 mile east of Carroll Road. Also known as Stockton Farm, this frame 2-½ story, Victorian clapboarded house in Italianate design was the Thomas Richardson house of 1877 atlas. Now dwelling of a progressive dairy farm, open occasionally on Farm Visitation Day. The Richardson-Price barn was built in 1875 and measures 100' x 47', and measures approximately 45 feet from floor to the peak of the roof. Storage for 13,500 bales of hay. Owner: T. Howard Price.
- 450 **STONETHROW** - Before 1877 - 14239 Phoenix Road (east side) north end of Phoenix village, a former tavern; this frame house, once Royston Property; was property of former County Councilman Clarence Ritter. L-shaped house covered with